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Contact: Bill Niblack at (573) 751-3595 or
Jim Grebing at (573) 751-9065

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157
www.missouridevelopment.org

For Radio Actuality Call: 1-800-298-5229

Labor Market Conditions Stable in September

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri's labor market conditions were relatively stable in September, with the state's unemployment rate edging down two-tenths of a point to 4.0 percent, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

DED Director Joseph L. Driskill said it would be next month before the any impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks are reflected in the state's unemployment figures. "These statistics are based on data collected in the week of September 11, and as a result are more reflective of conditions immediately preceding the attacks. The impact of the tragic events will likely show up in our October figures," Driskill said.

The September unemployment rate was less than the usual seasonal decrease that occurs at the end of the summer, so the seasonally adjusted rate, a better measure of underlying economic conditions, increased by two-tenths of a point to 4.2 percent. The corresponding national rate in September was 4.9 percent.

Driskill pointed out that the employment picture also stabilized somewhat in September, after having been on the decline since the beginning of the year.

Payroll employment normally picks up substantially in September as schools and colleges reopen for the fall term. This year, non-farm payrolls grew by 44,200 jobs. Employment in private educational services went up by 14,300, while employment in state and local government (which includes public schools and colleges) together climbed by 35,700. These were not the only sectors to show employment increases in September. Retail trade employment was up by 2,700 jobs, which included a gain of 900 in eating and drinking places (likely the result of school food service operations) and 1,500 in automotive dealers and service stations.

Wholesale trade was also up, by 1,800 jobs, but this didn't quite make up the loss in August. Business services was another industry to bounce back, by 2,200 jobs, following the battering it had been taking for the past year. Health services was up by 1,500 jobs and social services by 900, but most other service industries experienced some employment losses.

Employment in transportation and public utilities was down by 1,800 jobs in September, despite some increase normally provided by school bus employment. Airlines and related industries were relatively flat, in the pre-September 11 period.

In the goods-producing sector, manufacturing lost another 2,300 jobs, spread through most industries. Construction employment bounced back some from the August drop, adding 1,000 jobs.

As a whole, seasonally adjusted payroll employment increased by 11,700 in September, nearly recovering the June level. Compared to a year ago, payroll employment is down by 32,200 jobs. Once again, manufacturing and business services were largely responsible. Manufacturing employment was down by 24,500 jobs over the year, spread through every reported industry. Employment in business services was down by 17,100 jobs over the year, despite the small bit of recovery this month.

Most private service-producing industry groups have also lost jobs over the year. Notable exceptions include construction (up by 1,300 jobs); wholesale trade of durable goods (up by 1,700); finance, insurance and real estate (900 jobs); and a number of service industries. These included health services (up by 6,700 jobs), private educational services (3,200) and membership organizations (2,300).

Government employment was up by 9,100 jobs; three-fourths of these were in local government, which includes public schools.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (SEPTEMBER 2001), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JULY AND AUGUST 2001), AND YEAR AGO (SEPTEMBER 2000)

	SEP 2001	AUG 2001	JUL 2001	SEP 2000		SEP 2001	AUG 2001	JUL 2001	SEP 2000
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.7	4.9	4.7	3.8	Atchison	2.6	3.0	3.7	1.8
MISSOURI	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.5	Audrain	3.9	4.4	4.0	3.4
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.0	Barton	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.4
Franklin	4.0	4.3	5.5	4.9	Bates	5.2	5.4	5.8	4.1
Jefferson	3.7	4.0	5.0	3.3	Benton	6.9	6.4	7.0	6.5
Lincoln	3.6	4.0	4.4	3.2	Caldwell	4.5	5.3	6.9	4.0
St. Charles	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.5	Carroll	4.1	5.3	5.1	2.4
St. Louis County	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.1	Cedar	4.3	5.1	5.2	3.2
Warren	3.7	3.9	4.3	3.0	Chariton	6.2	7.7	6.9	5.2
St. Louis City	7.6	7.9	7.3	7.1	Clark	6.4	5.4	6.8	3.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.3	Cooper	4.7	5.0	4.0	2.4
Cass	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.6	Crawford	5.3	5.2	5.8	6.3
Clay	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.1	Dade	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.0
Clinton	2.5	3.2	3.8	2.5	Dallas	6.2	7.1	7.0	6.9
Jackson	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.9	Daviess	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.0
Lafayette	3.7	4.1	4.2	3.0	DeKalb	3.2	3.5	4.0	1.9
Platte	2.4	2.4	2.5	1.8	Dent	7.8	8.0	8.2	5.8
Ray	3.4	4.3	5.1	3.0	Douglas	10.3	10.2	6.6	6.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.4	Dunklin	6.1	7.1	7.3	4.6
Christian	2.8	3.4	3.0	2.1	Gasconade	4.4	4.3	5.0	4.0
Greene	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	Gentry	3.1	3.4	3.2	2.5
Webster	3.4	4.0	3.8	3.1	Grundy	2.9	3.5	3.2	3.3
JOPLIN MSA	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.0	Harrison	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.3
Jasper	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.4	Henry	4.6	4.6	4.8	3.5
Newton	6.2	6.4	5.7	5.3	Hickory	7.2	7.8	8.1	8.0
COLUMBIA MSA	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	Holt	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.3
Boone	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	Howard	4.3	5.7	4.8	2.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.3	5.1	4.5	3.3	Iron	6.4	6.2	6.5	7.2
Andrew	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.0	Johnson	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.0
Buchanan	5.6	5.2	4.6	3.3	Knox	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.3
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.8	3.5	3.4	1.9	Laclede	5.1	5.7	5.8	4.7
Adair	2.9	3.3	3.4	1.8	Lewis	2.3	3.3	3.2	2.6
Schuyler	2.4	4.8	4.0	2.1	Linn	11.7	10.8	11.8	10.7
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.5	5.4	9.0	5.1	Livingston	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.2
Butler	5.2	5.3	9.1	4.8	McDonald	6.2	5.9	5.3	5.3
Carter	5.3	4.8	6.7	4.7	Macon	7.0	8.1	8.6	4.4
Ripley	6.7	5.9	9.6	6.6	Madison	7.2	6.8	7.4	6.5
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.1	Mercer	2.1	2.8	2.8	2.0
Camden	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.1	Monroe	6.0	6.7	7.3	4.4
Miller	3.9	4.0	4.4	3.1	Montgomery	4.8	5.7	5.1	3.7
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	4.7	5.0	5.1	3.9	Morgan	5.2	5.2	4.9	3.2
Bollinger	4.5	4.4	5.6	4.7	Nodaway	1.1	1.7	2.5	1.0
Cape Girardeau	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.0	Ozark	4.7	4.6	4.0	3.4
Mississippi	7.1	7.9	8.3	5.6	Pemiscot	8.3	8.9	9.2	6.7
New Madrid	6.5	7.2	7.5	4.7	Perry	2.8	2.6	3.5	2.4
Scott	5.1	5.4	5.3	4.5	Pettis	6.6	5.9	5.4	3.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.6	3.8	3.7	2.2	Pike	5.5	6.5	7.0	3.9
Callaway	3.1	3.6	3.5	2.4	Polk	3.9	4.5	4.5	2.6
Cole	2.3	3.5	3.5	2.0	Pulaski	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.8
Moniteau	3.6	4.0	3.6	2.4	Putnam	2.8	4.3	3.3	2.8
Osage	1.9	5.5	5.8	2.0	Randolph	4.2	6.6	7.6	3.7
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.5	4.6	4.2	3.8	Reynolds	8.3	8.6	9.5	8.8
Howell	4.4	4.6	4.1	4.0	St. Clair	3.7	5.1	5.2	3.2
Oregon	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.1	Ste. Genevieve	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.3
Shannon	5.2	5.0	4.6	3.8	Saline	6.6	7.8	4.1	2.6
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.1	4.4	4.5	3.0	Scotland	3.0	3.5	3.9	2.0
Barry	3.9	4.0	4.3	2.9	Shelby	5.2	5.5	6.0	5.6
Lawrence	4.3	4.9	4.7	3.0	Stoddard	6.0	6.3	7.1	4.7
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.5	4.8	5.6	4.0	Stone	3.9	4.3	4.3	3.5
Marion	4.4	4.8	5.6	4.1	Sullivan	2.7	3.0	3.3	2.3
Ralls	4.6	4.9	5.6	3.8	Taney	2.9	3.2	3.2	2.6
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.1	3.7	3.9	2.7	Texas	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.5
Maries	3.8	5.9	6.0	2.7	Vernon	2.6	3.3	3.8	3.0
Phelps	3.0	3.2	3.5	2.7	Wayne	8.4	9.7	14.4	7.7
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	6.7	6.7	7.5	6.8	Worth	3.4	4.9	5.4	4.2
St. Francois	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.4	Wright	7.6	8.6	7.3	6.0
Washington	7.6	7.5	9.1	7.7					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU
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